

THE GULF COAST BREEZE.

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It is gratifying to learn that the men of Admiral Dewey's fleet are entitled under the law to \$100 each as prize money. For their gallant conduct they have already received medals and their country's praise, but, while these were assuredly acceptable, it is highly desirable that they should also receive a more substantial reward.

As sources of energy it has been proposed to use the peat bogs of North Germany, and what is now practically waste land is expected to become available for manufacturing on a large scale. The bogs of the valley of the Ems, for example, cover some 13,000 square miles, and the proposition has been made to erect in this section a 10,000-horse-power electric plant which would consume annually some 200,000 tons of peat, equivalent to the amount yielded by 200 acres. One acre of bog averaging ten feet in thickness contains about 1000 tons of dried peat, and the amount produced on 430 square miles would afford as much heating power as the 80,000,000 or more tons of coal annually mined in Germany. The proposed plan contemplates using the energy on a canal and in the manufacture of calcium carbide.

The health and food fads of the day are producing their legitimate result. Overzeal in their pursuit was to be expected, and it exists to the extent that medical men have actually found a scientific name for a condition which arises from fear of food. It is not exactly a disease, but its effect speedily becomes harmful if the condition continues. It seems desirable to avoid too much thought over what one eats. If certain general principles of hygienic food are observed, a healthy appetite and a relish for the dishes set before one may be trusted. It does not need any conversion to mental science to discover that if we make up our minds something will disagree with us, it will. Undoubtedly the reason that children can eat things that older people cannot, is that they eat them without a thought of trouble, and, barring some unusual indiscretion, there is none. This, of course, is not a plea for the pendulum to slip too far the other way, but merely one more caution that in the food fads, as in every other development of this investigating age, there is need for sanity and poise.

When this war broke out our most powerful warship, the Oregon, with her destructive twelve and thirteen-inch guns and her impregnable sides, happened to be at San Francisco. There was nothing for her to do there. She was sorely needed on the Atlantic side of the continent, where there was work in plenty in prospect. In order to get here she had to steam 13,000 miles, occupying fifty-seven days in the passage and consuming coal enough to supply a fleet for any ordinary course. Had there been a Nicaraguan or any other isthmian canal available she would have had to steam only three or four thousand miles, and she would have reached her point of duty about six weeks earlier than she did. It is easy to conceive war conditions in which that difference of six weeks would determine the fate of nations. The wonder story of the Oregon's voyage is far less a wonder, thinks the New York World, than is the long neglect of this great nation to provide for its own defense by constructing a canal that would bring its eastern and western coasts 10,000 miles and six weeks nearer to each other. It would cost a hundred millions—possibly two hundred millions—to construct such a canal. But what a bagatelle is that compared with the evil that might easily fall upon us for lack of this shorter waterway between our two coasts! One result of the war should be the construction of a ship-canal across this isthmus, to be owned or controlled by the United States.

BLOCKADE PORTO RICO.

President Issues Proclamation.

HOWELL'S FLEET ASSIGNED.

Vessels Selected For the Blockade Have Been Reinforced
By a Number of the
New Torpedo Boats.

The president has issued a proclamation extending the blockade of Cuba from the southern coast of Cape Frances to Cape Cruz, inclusive, and also blockading San Juan, Porto Rico.

The proclamation is as follows: "Whereas, for the reasons set forth in my proclamation of April 22, 1898, a blockade of ports on the northern coast of Cuba from Cardenas to Bahia Honda, inclusive, and of the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba was declared to have been instituted, and

"Whereas, It has become desirable to extend the blockade to other southern ports:

"Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, president of the United States, do hereby declare and proclaim that, in addition to the blockade of the ports specified in my proclamation of April 22, 1898, the United States of America has instituted and will maintain an effective blockade of all the ports on the south coast of Cuba from Cape Frances to Cape Cruz, inclusive, and also of the port of San Juan in the island of Porto Rico.

"Neutral vessels lying in any of the ports to which the blockade is by the present proclamation extended, will be allowed thirty days to issue therefrom with cargo.

"WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
President of the United States of America, June 27, 1898.
"By the President, J. B. Moore,
Acting Secretary of State."

The vessels for the additional blockade service will be supplied almost entirely from the patrol fleet which, under Commodore Howell, has been guarding the north Atlantic coast from Maine to South Carolina. This service has been abandoned because the only available Spanish warships are with Admiral Camara, thousands of miles away from the nearest point on the Atlantic coast.

The vessels are already on their way southward, having been reinforced by several of the new torpedo boats, which are particularly adapted because of their light draft for blockade duty in the shallow water lying behind the Isle of Pines and Cuba.

The blockade of San Juan was in reality already in effect, when the proclamation was issued having been initiated by Captain Sigbee some days ago when he turned back from that port a British steamer laden with supplies. The difficulty of maintaining the blockade at the port, in the face of the Spanish forts and three Spanish war vessels in the harbor, would be considerable had not Captain Sigbee, by disabling the only formidable one of these vessels, made the task easier.

NEW FRENCH CABINET.

Cavaignac Minister of War and Lockroy Minister of Marine.

The new French cabinet as definitely formed is as follows: President of the council and minister of the interior—M. Henri Brisson; Paul Peytral, finance; Leon Bourgeois, education; Ferdinand Sarrien, justice; Godefroy Cavaignac, war; Edouard Simon Lockroy, marine; Theophile Delcasse, foreign affairs; George Trouillot, colonies; Emile Maréjols, commerce; Albert Viger, agriculture; Senator Tillaye, public works.

WILL RESIST INVASION.

Spaniards Declare They Will Fight to the Death in Defending Manila.

Dispatches received at Madrid from Manila, under date of June 24, say the Spaniards are determined to fight to the death, and that there is every reason to believe that when the American troops arrive there will be desperate fighting on land and sea.

It is supposed at Manila that the German warship will prevent the bombardment of that place, and it is alleged that Prince Henry of Prussia is on his way there on board a warship.

The Spaniards are said to be actively engaged pushing preparations for the defense of the city.

HAVE TELEGRAPH STATIONS

And Washington is in Easy Communication With General Shafter.

A Washington special says: A. W. Greely, chief signal officer, received a dispatch Thursday night from Lieutenant Colonel Allen, chief signal officer, stating that a telegraph and telephone station had been established at a point within two miles of the city of Santiago. This information is of the highest importance to the officials of the war department, as it insures to them practically direct communication with General Shafter.

The information was significant, too, as it showed that the American troops were in rifle shot of Santiago. The telegraph station being, of course, within the American lines, its location conclusively indicates that the forces of General Shafter have established themselves in advance of the telegraph station.

An Associated Press dispatch from Siboney Beach, General Shafter's headquarters, Province of Santiago de Cuba, states that Colonel Allen succeeded Wednesday night in connecting Siboney by cable with Guantamo.

Advices from Playa Del Este, Guantamo bay, state that the French cable, cut some time ago near Guantamo by the United States auxiliary cruiser St. Louis, has been repaired by the cable boat Adria.

The connection was established between General Shafter's headquarters at Baiguiri and Guantamo, the line being used for government business so far.

CIVILIANS ACCOMPANY MERRITT.

They Go to the Philippines to Assist in Executive Duties.

A Washington dispatch states that General Merritt has taken with him to the Philippines a large staff of civilians, who are expected to assist in the executive duties connected with his form of government he is authorized by the president to establish. The scope of his orders is an executive secret, known only to the president and very few other officials of the government.

The fact leaked out Thursday that General Merritt took with him about thirty or thirty-five civilians who are experts in the several branches of executive government.

The customs service is represented by several men who are familiar with all that pertains to the collection of revenues and the customs branch of the service. There are also several expert accountants, several international corporation lawyers, together with a staff of typewriters and clerical assistants, prepared to aid in the transaction of the governmental business in accordance with the instructions General Merritt has received from the president.

TENNESSEE DEMOCRATS PLEASED.

The State Convention Accomplished Its Labors Harmoniously.

A Chattanooga special says: The state democratic convention Wednesday and the harmony and tranquility with which it accomplished its labors is still a matter of felicitation to the departing delegates. The convention, beside the nomination of statehouse officers, had for consideration several important issues, and thus additional interest was lent its deliberations.

It did not take the delegates long to get down to hard work and permanent organization was soon completed by the election of Hon. Alfred S. Deadrick, of Washington county, as permanent chairman, and other prominent democrats in subordinate positions. The convention heard several speeches and then committee on platform reported. The following plank declaring for free silver, is strong enough to leave no doubt of the financial sentiments of the delegates:

"We hereby indorse the enunciation of principles contained in the democratic platform adopted by the national democratic convention at Chicago in 1896, it being a true expression of the democratic creed. We especially reaffirm our demand for the restitution of the money of the constitution by a law providing for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of any other nation."

Much interest was taken in the convention for another reason—curiosity as to how it would deal with the new railroad commission recently created by the legislature. This measure passed the body only after a hard fight.

PUBLIC OPINION CHANGED.

It is Admitted That United States Can Extend Hostilities.

The St. James Gazette (London) in its issue of Tuesday afternoon, commenting upon the prospect of the American forces attacking the coast of Spain, says:

"The reception of the news evidences a change in public opinion which at the commencement of the war, thought Europe should notify the United States that the war must be confined to American waters. It is now recognized that the Americans are fully entitled to make war in their own way."

CAUGHT FIVE SMALL VESSELS

THE DIXIE MAKES A BIG HAUL AT CATAELA.

CORRALED BOATS IN A BUNCH.

Spanish Crews Abandon Their Vessels and Make For the Shore—Two Men Captured and Liberated.

A dispatch of Wednesday from Havana says: The commander of the Spanish gunboat Ardrilla reports that while reconnoitering on June 26th at Coloma, Punta Cortes and other places at Coyaola, he was informed that a strange steamer with one smokestack, apparently a warship of 3,000 tons, was in sight. The stranger soon caught sight of the Ardrilla and pursued her. The gunboat kept within the blue sea and succeeded in keeping out of range of her pursuer. To the southeastward the stranger, which turned out to be an American warship, appeared to be in company with other vessels.

The Ardrilla made a reconnaissance on the following day, June 27th, and discovered that the American ship had captured the sloop Nemesis, of Batabano, province of Havana; Amisda and Manuelito, of Coloma, province of Pinar del Rio, and the pilot boats Luz and Jacinto. It is claimed that when the sloop were sighted the American ship hoisted the Spanish flag, believing he had to do with a Spanish warship. The pilot also approached the American vessel and did not find out his mistake until a blank shot and afterwards loaded shells were fired at the pilot boat.

The shells, it is exclaimed, exploded near her. The American ship by this time seemed to have driven the Spanish craft into a bunch, including the Luz, Jacinto and Amisda, Nemesis and Manuelito. The latter, it is further alleged, let go their anchors and were abandoned by their crews, who made for the shore, going in the direction of Punta de Piedras, on the southwestern extremity of Pinar del Rio, between the Isle of Pines and the mainland. The commander of the Nemesis, with one of his crew, remained on board his sloop and was captured and taken on board the American ship. Later he was set at liberty after having been questioned in regard to the Spanish fleet and general situation of affairs.

The American ship is described as carrying one forward gun, one at her stern and four guns on each side. She is said to have been commanded by a "frigate captain" and to have "carried about six hundred men with blue pants and red fringe," who said they were going to Cuba and afterwards to Key West.

It Was the Yankee.

A Washington dispatch says: The American auxiliary cruiser referred to in the dispatches from Havana was undoubtedly the Yankee, manned by the naval reserves, which arrived at Key West from Cienfuegos on Monday last. She then reported that off the Isle of Pines, southwest coast of Cuba, she captured, burned and destroyed five Spanish small craft loaded with fish and that she also captured two prisoners, who were released.

The auxiliary cruiser, which was formerly the Morgan line steamer El Norte, also reported having been engaged with a Spanish gunboat, undoubtedly the Ardrilla, referred to in the dispatch from Havana.

A QUESTION OF CHEESE.

Congressman Allen Entitled House By Roasting Grosvenor.

A Washington dispatch says: The house Wednesday incidentally enjoyed a speech from Mr. Allen, of Mississippi, which precipitated a political episode in which Mr. Grosvenor, republican, of Ohio, and Mr. Bailey, democrat, of Texas, figured as principals.

The discussion was precipitated by the bill to increase the daily army ration by the addition tri-weekly of one-quarter of a pound of full cream American cheese and two ounces of canned corn. The bill was attacked as presented not in response to the demand of the army, but of the cheesemakers.

CONGRESS HONORS HEROES.

Hobson Thanked and Transferred From Construction Corps to the Line.

In accordance with the recommendations of the president, the senate at the beginning of its session Wednesday took action in recognition of the distinguished service rendered recently by officers and men of the navy and revenue cutters service.

The thanks of congress was extended to Naval Constructor Hobson, who, with his crew of seven men, sunk the collier Merrimac across the entrance to the harbor of Santiago de Cuba and providing for the transfer of Mr. Hobson from the construction corps of the navy to the line.

WAR PARAGRAPHS.

A Brief Compilation of Daily Occurrences.

American seige guns have been placed on the hills surrounding Santiago and trained upon the hapless Cuban city.

Camara's squadron was peremptorily refused coal at Port Said.

Commodore John C. Watson has been ordered to proceed from the West Indies to attack the Spanish coast. With him he will take a formidable fleet of warships.

The brig Amapala, which was captured some days ago by the United States gunboat Vicksburg, will be sent to the Tortugas for quarantine and fumigation for ten days. She will then return to Key West, where the prize court will render a decision in her case.

Thirty thousand troops, more than half the big army at Chickamauga have been ordered to Cuba. The army will be under the command of General J. R. Brooke, and the entire first corps and twenty-seven regiments will go.

A Spanish spy, who was captured by the Cubans, reports that the Spaniards in Santiago de Cuba believe the Americans suffered heavy loss during the fighting near Sevilla, both in killed and wounded.

The publication by the president announcing the blockade of the ports on the southern coast of Cuba as well as the blockading of San Juan, Porto Rico, is the first official announcement of the beginning of the Porto Rican campaign. Several vessels have already been sent to San Juan and the blockade there, it is thought at the navy department, is already on. The attack on the island of Porto Rico depends entirely upon the situation at Santiago.

A dispatch from Madrid says: Premier Sagasta is planning to provoke a crisis, form a monarchial ministry, proclaim the whole peninsula in a state of siege and appeal to a friendly nation, probably France or Prussia, to secure terms for peace.

It is said at the navy department that it is the present intention to start Commodore Watson's eastern squadron from Santiago. This, however, is subject to Admiral Sampson's report upon the condition of the vessels and their needs in the matter of supplies and equipment for the long voyage ahead of them.

Permanent hospital arrangements are to be provided at Jarama at once.

The president sent two special messages to congress providing for recognition of the gallant deeds of Lieut. Hobson, Lieut. Newcomb and the crew of the Hudson, which rescued the Winslow at Cardenas; Captain Hogdon, of the McCulloch, and Naval Cadet Powell.

The sick in the hospitals at Santiago, the pacifiers say, are suffering from lack of food, and they also report that seventy-seven Spaniards were killed and that eighty-nine were wounded as the result of the engagement with Colonel Wood's and General Young's commands.

Governor Johnston, of Alabama, has received a letter from Senator Pettus inclosing one from the secretary of war, in which it is stated that the law does not permit the appointment of a third major for a volunteer regiment. On May 21st Adjutant General Corbin wrote to the governor, directing him to appoint a third major for each of his volunteer regiments.

General Wheeler has sent an official report to Major General Shafter of what is known as the battle of Siboney. The soldiers who were engaged in the fight are highly complimented.

General Merritt has taken with him to the Philippines a large staff of civilians, who are expected to assist in the executive duties connected with the form of government he is authorized by the president to establish.

The headquarters of the National Volunteer Reserves at New York have been closed on account of lack of funds. The object of the organization was to form an adjunct to the land and sea forces of the United States, from which the government could draw its men when they were needed in war. There were enlisted in from 8,000 to 9,000 men from all parts of the country. The organization had furnished a large number of volunteers to the various regiments, and in many parts of the west it sent out whole companies and whole regiments.

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The district court at Charleston, S. C., has ordered sold the Maria Dolores, the Spanish prize captured by the Minneapolis on May 21st last.

Several cases of typhoid fever have developed recently at Camp Alger. The sickness is attributed to unwholesomeness of the drinking water.